

CITY OF REDMOND TRAILS COMMISSION

MINUTES — February 23, 2005 Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Gary Smith, Glenn Eades, Ken Bechmann, Sue Chenault (arrived at 7:12 p.m.), Julie Barnfather (arrived at 7:20 p.m.), Kris Colt (arrived at 8:15 p.m.); youth advocate Morgan Hargraves

ABSENT: Peter McDonald

CITY STAFF: Tim Cox, Manager of Parks Planning; Pam Maybee, Recording Secretary

AUDIENCE: Seth Kelsey

Note: Bold/italic text denotes Staff and Commissioner follow-up resulting from this meeting.

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gary Smith called to order the regular meeting of the Redmond Trails Commission (RTC) at 7:08 p.m. at the Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center (ORSCC).

II. KRIS COLT – RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION

Commissioners recognized Commissioner Colt for her service since 1994 (five years on Trails Committee; six years on the Commission). Colt was credited for moving the committee to commission status and recognized for significant contributions to trail development.

Seth Kelsey highlighted history of Kris's contributions and thanked her for her help when he was a new member on the Park Board. He relayed the Park Board's appreciation as well.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Redmond Trails Commission Minutes of January 26, 2005 were approved with the following amendment:

- Page 6, F, first paragraph: Delete the word “bike.”

Motion for approval of January 26, 2005 RTC minutes as amended by:
Commissioner Eades

Second by: Commissioner Chenault

Motion carried: Unanimous 5-0

IV. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE

A. East Lake Sammamish Interim Use Trail

1. Public Hearing Notice

There will be a City of Sammamish public hearing on March 24, 2005 regarding the Shoreline Substantial Development Permit on the East Lake Sammamish interim trail.

Commissioners requested the City notify them when their attendance/support would impact either this or relevant meetings. Cox noted it was a City of Sammamish issue being heard by their hearing examiner. Linda Gorremans, Parks Planning, may send a letter of support, signed by the Mayor. Staff would most likely not be present at the hearing.

2. 520/Redmond Way Connection

Cox referenced a letter dated 11/29/04 of King County's proposed plan to extend the north end of the East Lake Sammamish interim soft surface trail behind Redmond Inn, and extend it to the SR520 exit ramp and Redmond Way. The County's plan to implement is ahead of the Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Nickel package, and is considered an interim improvement. WSDOT is working that into their design.

B. Comprehensive Plan – Parks, Trails, Recreation Chapter

Handout for informational purposes. Cox noted the handout included policies that related to trails. The revised Parks and Recreation, Trails Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan was adopted by City Council in December 2004.

V. DISCUSSION AND REPORTS

A. Draft Transportation Master Plan (TMP)

Joel Pfundt, Senior Planner, has been working with a team on developing the TMP. He highlighted a few events from the proposed City Council and Planning Commission review schedule handout:

- March 4 and 5: Workshop with City Council
- March 9: Open house (a final opportunity to give public comments)
- May 3: City Council approval (a celebration is scheduled for 5/12/05)

Pfundt reviewed the Plan, focusing on the bicycle corridor section and integrating the trail information:

- Chap. 1: Intro
- Chap. 2: TMP Policies
- Chap. 3: Trends and Conditions
- Chap. 4: Plan Implementation out to 2022, focusing on contiguous bicycle routes across town.
- Chap. 5: Modal elements (modes are noted in all chapters)
- Chap. 5-A (not in handout): Pedestrian Program Plan
 - Broad context of pedestrian environments in four categories—*pedestrian intolerant*, *pedestrian tolerant*, *pedestrian supportive*, and *pedestrian place*—focusing on a hierarchy of these.
 - Goal is to see a minimum standard of *pedestrian supportive* City-wide.
 - Bike Chapter Section: Focusing on a contiguous system with no missing links.
 - Section on transit, regional and local (how to measure and connect).
 - Section on street system (supporting other modes).
- Chap. 6: Transportation facility plan, i.e., the list of projects to be completed by 2022 (based on funding projections) focusing on:
 - New City connections
 - Projects within urban centers (Overlake and Downtown)
 - Multi-modal key corridors around the City
- Last chapters: Regional transportation (Redmond's position).
- Final chapter: Three-year priority action plan (with Council's direction built into the Plan).

Pfundt added the following:

- Council wanted better performance monitoring; measures are now in place to report annually of system implementation.
- There are Class II bike lanes proposed West Lake Sammamish Parkway south of NE 51st Street.
- One map included in the TMP is based on existing and planned facilities. (Once Plan is approved, some changes will be made due to modifications.)
- Primary bike corridors are those of long-term trips; secondary are short-term collectors.
- Need good pedestrian facilities to grow transit.

Staff and Commissioner feedback to Pfundt's presentation:

- Request for a bike corridor from Avondale to 95th to Perrigo Park, since it goes out to the Bear-Evans Creek Trail as a major connecting trail. (Cox)
- ***Staff and Commissioners will add priorities and suggestions to the yellow highlighted map.***
- Network trails are being funded as they are recognized as transportation. (Cox)
- ***Pfundt will ask Dave Alm to put on the PBAC agenda a discussion on comparing the two maps, identifying the links.***
- RTC should take an interest in the pedestrian modes of *supportive* and *place* as an advocate for the pedestrian and as part of RTC's vision. (Eades)
- Multi-modal is designed as *supportive* (the goal of 2022). (Pfundt)
- Redmond does not necessarily have venues to draw pedestrians to a "*pedestrian place*." (Barnfather)
- Focus on a few locations and focus on the urban landscape to make it happen. (Pfundt)
- Kurt Siemans, Planning Department, will be at the Park Board meeting on 3/3/05 with a more complete overview; (Pfundt brought only the bike/ped emphasis to RTC at this meeting.)

Discussion on trails as transportation:

- RTC is interested in moving people from neighborhood to neighborhood (to a destination). (Barnfather, Eades)
- The sidewalk program has been limited to collector streets and local streets, adding sidewalks to streets; but, now that the money is available (\$1 million/year), there will be a focus on larger projects. (Pfundt)
- Trails are transportation corridors; therefore can fit into funding and plans if it meets the states' criteria for safety, etc. (Barnfather)

- The interface of trails and sidewalks to get to a destination is a question that remains, as well as how to get funds to do it. (Cox)
- Progress is being made to identify trails as transportation, not just recreation facilities. (Pfundt)

B. Grass Lawn Neighborhood Trails

Cox reported the Redmond Park Board is analyzing park facilities neighborhood by neighborhood.

- Grass Lawn Park neighborhood analysis is nearly completed.
- Strategy statements come out of the analysis, which may eventually affect policy.
- Methodology is to somewhat follow the neighborhood plans that have been updated.

Cox asked Commissioners to consider addressing the north/south PSE 200-foot corridor.

- There is currently no plan for implementation and no advocacy.
- Could come up with a strategy to do a feasibility study (hire consultant).
- Develop a buying strategy.
- If it is not going to work, then take it off the map.
- Could approach Bellevue to team with them as a joint City effort. (south end is in Bellevue)

Commissioners decided to study a map of the area, discuss the issues and options. ***Commissioners agreed to have the north/south PSE trail as a significant discussion item on a future agenda. Staff will bring a linear aerial photo with suggested opportunities for Commissioner input.***

Smith proposed six months as a reasonable time-frame to get the photo and hold a discussion. Cox suggested a broad analysis that could direct into a more specific study. ***Cox will work with Smith to ready the topic.***

C. Trail Projects Reports

1. Evans Creek Trail

Cox gave the following update on the Evans Creek Trail:

- Phase I has been completed, between NE 95th Street (Perrigo Park) south to Union Hill Road:

- On Union Hill Road (formerly Barrett property), one-fourth of total trail length has been built.
- A gap occurs with Union Shares property.
- After the Union Shares gap, the trail follows one-half mile north past Perrigo Park to NE 95th Street.
- Phase II (approximately .3 miles) will go out to bid in March with construction following.

2. Trail at Bear Creek Park

Cox gave the following report:

- Consultants have completed the first preliminary drawings, and the environmental consultants have submitted the matrix with the permitting scheme.
- 2005 construction is being explored.
- Biological assessment is required to receive federal funding, and is the most time consuming.
- Biological consultant says there is no wetland on the site. A letter of "No Affect" may be adequate for Federal review.
- In order to procure Federal funding and permits, the City must go through the appropriate process.
- The City has initiated a separate study of the Redmond Way Bridge, and find at least 9-10 feet of clearance under the bridge.
- Design is geared to coordinate with WSDOT 520 Nickel project.

D. Sammamish River PSE Trail Bridge

Cox referenced the memo handout to City Council from Mayor Ives, highlighting the statement, "...the Council's objective to identify ten new neighborhood connections using ... trails ... by 2006-2007." Commissioners asked staff to inquire more about this. ***Staff will investigate more regarding this objective as well as identify connections that qualify from a trail perspective. Staff will also show neighborhood connections from three or four developments currently scheduled to develop to include a dedicated right-of-way.***

Smith questioned the future section of the PSE right-of-way where 160th dead ends to a gully, creating a gap. Cox responded:

- A long-term road project exists to bridge the valley, and underneath the street right-of-way to connect the east/west trail. At last report it was deferred. ***Cox will investigate.***

- There is a path connecting 116th across Red-Wood Road down to the valley. ***Staff will investigate and report.***

E. York Bridge Update

Cox referenced the email handout from Steven Gibbs:

- Option #1 was chosen: the bridge and trail would be lowered approximately 2.05 feet.
- A flood overtop would occur every 35 years.
- A 10-foot clearance under the bridge would enable the trail to be built.

F. Trail Commissioner Position

Cox reported a media advisory was issued soliciting applications by 3/15/05 for the new RTC position (to fill Commissioner Colt's vacancy). The new position can be either a county or city resident.

G. National Trails Day – June 4

Commissioners favored a National Trails Day celebration and ribbon cutting ceremony at the newly completed phase II Evans Creek Trail (pending completion):

- Commissioners will provide refreshments and invite Arts Commissioners, Park Board, Mayor, and City Council.
- Staff will know by April RAC meeting in time to make the final decision.

H. Power Line Trail Potential West of Willows

Discussion regarding the north/south power line trail as a priority connector to Rose Hill to Kirkland:

- City of Kirkland has a Bike-Ped designation on NE 100th Street west of 132nd Avenue NE.
- The City retained the NE 100th Street right-of-way approaching Willows.
- ***Eades will walk the power line trail and bring a first-hand report to Commissioners.***

I. BNSF Right-of-Way Redmond Reporter Article

Smith reported that Sarah Koenig, *Redmond Reporter*, is writing an article on the BNSF right-of-way. ***Cox suggested she contact Debbie Wilson, City Property Manager to find out the current status of the BNSF property and right-of-way.***

Cox noted that there have been several encroachments into the right-of-way over the years.

- City's appraisers have identified the ownership locations.
- Where the property does not measure 100 feet wide, there are encroachments. **Staff will investigate these encroachments.**
- The City is making an offer on the property. Questions regarding private ownerships in the right-of-way will be investigated prior to purchase.

J. Neighborhood Meetings

Cox reported Grass Lawn and north Education Hill neighborhoods would be holding meetings. **He will email the meeting dates and times to Commissioners.**

K. West Lake Sammamish Trail Extension

Eades reported the City Council minutes stated the Sammamish River Trail extension was included in the West Lake Sammamish project from Leary Way to 51st Street. He spoke with the King County Parks Planning Manager who believed there was a good chance the trail could be extended further south along the Parkway.

Seth Kelsey noted the City Attorney is presently reviewing Idylwood's improvements, which includes proposals by the Sammamish Rowing Association. Cox noted the SRA is also negotiating with other parks in the area (e.g., Sammamish State Park). Kelsey invited Commissioners to the Park Board meeting to give input.

L. Park Board Survey

The Park Board will have the bond survey results at their March meeting, and the Board will take a position at that point. **Bechmann will attend that meeting; Eades will be back up.** Trust for Public Lands will be there to discuss the results.

M. Missing Link

Chenault has made attempts to reach Mr. Foxworthy, King County's contact person, for the missing link between Farrel-McWhirter and the Watershed. **Chenault will continue to try to reach him.** Colt thanked Linda Gorremans, Parks Planning, for sending an email to Commissioners regarding this topic.

N. Watershed Pipeline Construction

Cox reported Williams Northwest Pipeline is proposing to reconstruct/repair the gas pipeline through the Redmond Watershed in the spring of 2006.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Smith at 9:20 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary, Pam Maybee

<p>Audiotapes of regular Trails Commission meetings are available at the Parks and Recreation Office at (425) 556-2311.</p>

**THE NEXT REDMOND TRAILS COMMISSION MEETING:
Wednesday, March, 30, 2005
Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center
7:00 p.m.**